

APPROVED-4/12/12

There was a special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood.

John Gibbons and Daniel Pedro were absent.

Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Alex Prignano, Business Manager

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion and/or Vote to Approve FY 2013 Budget

Dr. Thornton asked Alex to go over the adjustments for this evening's meeting.

Alex began with the revenue side and said that the \$110,000 in the Fund Balance is for kindergarten furniture, educational supplies, Gemsnet, etc., and some of these items will be one time purchase only. Section 125 Co-pays would be about \$48,000 and Middle School Sports Booster Clubs would be \$30,000.

Expenditures side would add \$20,000 for library books, Step Adjustments/Lanes (BFN and NCMS) \$28,000, charter schools was originally estimated at 43 students attending, actually there are 74 to date so we are using 80 students – for an adjustment of \$167,012, athletics (includes transportation) middle school sports \$67,000, pensions, social security, medicare \$18,699, high school stipends reduction of \$8,083(chorus during the day), high school in-house suspension is currently a full time position – five days/week – Dr. Thornton noted that he is looking at reducing it to three days/week – could be a savings of step 10 teachers salary. He said that they might do the suspensions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mrs. Sanzi asked if there was anything in the contract that says the person conducting the in-house suspension needs to be a certified teacher and Dr. Thornton said not that he knows of and Mrs. Sanzi asked him to definitely look into this – could be a big savings. Mr. Mutter asked if anyone wanted to speak at this time, but everyone declined. Dr. Thornton wanted to talk a little more about the in-house suspension. He said that by law we must comply and that is why we had a special education teacher in that position – some of the kids have IEP's, etc., - it is a \$76,000/year position. This teacher gives the students their work, gives them tests, works with them individually.

At this point Mrs. Polucha and Mrs. Motta came to the podium to advocate for the library secretary's position. They started off by saying that they have several duties as librarians – library tasks/books, work with teachers and students, teach students to use the database, how to use excel, powerpoint, between the two of them they teach six e seminar classes, train kids/teachers the portfolio system, tri-chair for NEASC, schedule students for online courses, circulation, supervise library aides, and they closed by stating that if they lose their library clerk, it will be very difficult for them to keep up with all of these duties. Mr. Mutter asked what the salary is for this position and Alex said with fringe benefits, it is around \$30,000. Mr. Mutter asked if they were to put this back into the budget, where would it go and Alex said on page 21 of the budget. Mr. Mutter then asked Alex about the \$20,000 back in for library books and Alex said that the dollars would be spent at more than one school. Mr. Mutter then noted that no SC member had seen this budget prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Wood asked if with the possible addition of a 7th period at the high school, would this reduce the size of the classes. Mrs. Gould (CHS Principal) said it would not change the size of the classes because we would not be adding any new teachers. In fact classes may have to get a little bigger – class size by contract should not exceed 26, they compensate overages to 30. Mr. Mutter again went over some of the proposed changes to the budget and said the change would equal \$209,602 – the original budget was \$55,152,928, the proposed would be \$55,362,530.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to increase the fund balance \$110,000 –

to use for educational supplies, 2nd Mrs. Teel, Mr. Wood, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to amend section 125 co-pays from \$1,200,000 to \$1,247,890, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to amend retiree healthcare from \$925,000 to \$946,712, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to amend middle school sports booster clubs from \$0 to \$30,000, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-0.

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the revenue side of the FY 2013 budget from \$55,152,928 to \$55,362,530, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0.

On the expenditure side it was as follows:

Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to increase the library books budget to \$20,000, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Wood, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to increase step adjustments/lanes (BFN&NCMS) \$27,868, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to reduce middle school math consumables \$15,000, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to increase charter schools \$167,012, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to increase athletics \$67,000, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to increase pensions, social security and medicare, \$18,699, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to reduce high school salaries stipends \$8,083 (chorus during day, not afterschool), 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved

5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to reduce high school in-house detention \$65,884, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to increase high school special education teachers \$36,101, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion for high school salaries 1.5 art teachers and .1 music \$64,931, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion for a reduction to attrition of \$103,042, 2nd Mr. Wood and Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Total of all changes \$209,602, Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to increase expenses from \$55,152,928 to \$55,362,530, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Dr. Thornton noted that there are a lot of things on their minds right now, town appropriation, transportation model from Durham which will include full day K and possible 7th period at the high school, special education grants, meal tax from the governor, healthcare claims – within the last 4-5 weeks several claims were put in, could be a problem in the future, CTA concessions of \$594,000, hope to achieve this – have spoken with CTA and the discussions went well, but nothing is definitive yet. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Alex if he knew when they might have an answer and Alex noted that hopefully by the time the budget goes to the council. Mr. Mutter reiterated lots of unknowns with this budget. He said everything that they are asking for, they need to make things work properly. He wants to make it work to benefit the students, he wants to make sure that we better prepare our students for secondary education. Mrs. Sanzi noted that

63% of the seniors take SAT's. She believes that the \$76,000 for a special education teacher to do the in-house detention is ridiculous – if that line item was in the budget last year she said she apologizes for not catching it then – she wants to do better with this budget. Mr. Mutter said they all need to do better, they need to be better prepared.

Mrs. Beaulieu said that she hopes the council stays interested in what the SC is doing and that they come and sit with them to see exactly what they are doing.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the FY 2013 budget in the amount of \$55,362,530, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #5: Public Comment

Deb B., library secretary at the high school, she commented on the in-house detention teacher – she said she is not just a proctor, she keeps those students under control, keeps them working, she does not think you could put a first year teacher in that position. This teacher has control over the room, the students respect her and she makes changes in their lives – she is not a proctor – she is a special needs teacher with experience and keeps those kids under control at all times. Those students are always working in that classroom. She went on to say that you definitely need someone in there with experience. Mr. Mutter thanked her for her comments because he said they need to know what goes on so that they can make good decisions. Deb. B. did mention a couple of other things regarding professional development and how much the district spends. Dr. Thornton told her that the dollars in the budget are specifically for

professional development and cannot be used for anything else but that. He believes that professional development is very meaningful to the teachers. Mr. Mutter noted that he wants to make sure that we have graduates with 12th grade skills.

Mr. R. asked how the per pupil expense amount gets calculated for the Blackstone Valley Prep students – Alex said they are increasing the amount a little bit each year – started with \$5,600 then \$5,800, next \$6,200 – they will eventually reach the number set by RIDE. Alex noted that there are no special education students at the charter schools. Mrs. Sanzi noted that some charter schools have a high percentage of special education students.

Agenda Item #6: Adjournment

Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony